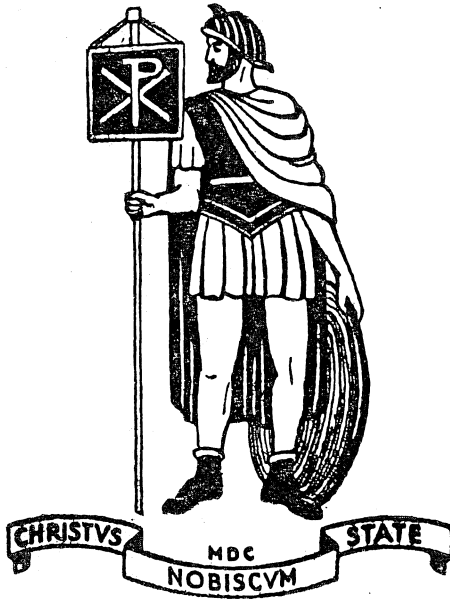


The

Alvester Grammar



School Record

December, 1949

Alcester Grammar School Record.

No. 94

DECEMBER, 1949

Editor : MR. V. V. DRULLER.

Committee :

Dorothy Rose, Mary Burrows, Jennifer Birch, Barbara Druller, Jill Kempster, Holifield, Finnemore, Davies ii.

THE OLD SCHOLARS' GUILD

Hon. Secretary :

J. M. STEWART

President :

J. S. C. WRIGHT

Hon. Treasurer :

MRS. M. FEAST

SUMMER REUNION, July 23rd., 1949.

The Reunion this Summer was held, for a change, on a brilliantly fine day, which considerably helped the programme of outside entertainment. The only complaint was of the heat which prevented the Tennis Tournament from being completed, although it was continued after the Buffet Tea, held in the Canteen. A leisurely Cricket Match was also played, for those not taking part in the Tournament.

Supper was begun a little earlier than usual, at 7.45, and the business meeting which followed was presided over by Geoffrey Baylis in the absence, on holiday, of Stuart Wright. We were rather unfortunate in picking the Midland Holiday Week for the Reunion, as many of our regular members were thereby prevented from coming. A proposal to hold an Autumn Dance this year received general support, and the Committee hope that all those who voted in favour of it will rush to buy tickets.

Dancing, as usual, was enjoyed in the hall until midnight, with Pat Wheeler as M.C. and with music provided by the "Georgians." Unfortunately, the heat of the day was still with us, and most members found themselves very tired by the end of the evening. We wonder, is there such a thing as perfect Reunion weather?

AUTUMN DANCE, November 25th 19 9.

By the time the "Record" has been published the Dance will be over, and, the Committee hopes, will have been a success. As an Autumn Dance is a new venture, and also as licensed refreshments have been applied for, we would like to hear the opinions of old scholars about it at the Christmas Reunion.

CHRISTMAS REUNION, December 17th, 1949.

The Reunion will be held at the school on Saturday, 17th December, and will begin with games, community singing and general conversation, at 7.00 p.m., followed by supper at 8.00 p.m. The Business Meeting will be an important one, as all the officers and committee retire. Members are asked to have nominations ready, so that no time will be wasted. Several other items affecting the future of the Guild are to be raised, and it is hoped that as many will turn up as possible. Dancing will go on in the hall until midnight.

Invitations are being sent to all who have joined the Guild since the war, but it is hoped that any other old scholar who wishes to come, and anyone accidentally overlooked, will drop a note to the Secretary, and they will be very welcome.

The usual Supper charge of 2s. 6d. will be collected at the Reunion.

The President and 1949 Committee wish all Old Scholars everywhere a very Happy Christmas, and hope that in the New Year, and every year, they will remember that in the Guild they will rediscover old friends, make new ones, and generally add a little happiness to this sombre world.

J.M.S.

SCHOOL REGISTER.
VALETE

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| *Adkins, G. V. (VI), 1941-49. | Blundell, G. E. (Upp. VB), 1944-49. |
| *Dalrymple, A. J. (VI), 1946-49. | Blundell, R. J. (Upp. VB), 1944-49. |
| *Evans, R. E. (VI), 1942-49. | *Brookes, K. E. (Upp. VB), 1943-49. |
| *Findon, J. (VI), 1944-49. | Hainss, L. E. (Upp. VB), 1939-49. |
| *Hemming, A. M. (VI), 1943-49. | Jaques, V. (Upp. VB), 1944-49. |
| *Prestidge, J. (VI), 1941-49. | *Savage, R. L. (Upp. VB), 1944-49. |
| *Rutter, M. A. (VI), 1936-49. | Smalley, C. D. (Upp. VB), 1944-49. |
| *Sachs, V. M. (VI), 1946-49. | Stringer, J. R. (Upp. VB), 1942-49. |
| Archer, J. W. (Upp. VA), 1944-49. | Wyatt, C. M. (Upp. VB), 1944-49. |
| Arnold, J. A. (Upp. VA), 1943-49. | Chavasse, A. P. (Low. VA), 1946-49. |
| Bartlett, G. (Upp. VA), 1944-49. | Langham, M. (Low. VA), 1945-49. |
| Crawford, G. C. (Upp. VA), 1946-49. | Baylis, R. J. (Low. VB), 1943-49. |
| Harris, M. (Upp. VA), 1944-49. | Beasley, J. A. (Low. VB), 1946-49. |
| *Holder, Josephine (Upp. VA), 1944-49. | Dixon, E. J. (Low. VB), 1946-49. |
| Jaques, B. (Upp. VA), 1944-49. | Laight, P. J. (Low. VB), 1945-49. |
| Lawrence, E. M. (Upp. VA), 1944-49. | Pinfield, D. A. (Low. VB), 1945-49. |
| Payne, A. J. (Upp. VA), 1944-49. | Yeomans, M. (Low. VB), 1941-49. |
| Southwick, M. B. (Upp. VA), 1944-49. | Turner, G. A. (Upp. IVA), 1946-49. |
| Spencer, M. D. G. (Upp. VA), 1943-49. | Malin, D. K. (Upp. IVB), 1945-49. |
| Wainwright, J. A. (Upp. VA), 1943-49. | Vincent, M. M. (Upp. IVB), 1946-49. |
| *Wilkinson, E. N. (Upp. VA), 1944-49. | Easton, J. A. (Low. IVA), 1947-49. |
| *Bailey, D. L. (Upp. VB), 1943-49. | Miles, D. C. (IIIB), 1948-49. |

* Prefect.

SALVETE

Allen, J. M. (IIIA).	Husband, P. F. (IIIA).
Allen, M. P. (IIIA).	Jones, D. B. (IIIB).
Aulton, J. R. (IIIB).	Kendall, B. (IIIB).
Bailey, T. O. (IIIB).	Lancaster, R. D. (IIIA).
Baseley, V. H. (IIIA).	Langston, J. M. (IIIB).
Bates, P. (IIIA).	Lett, J. A. (IIIA).
Baylis, R. G. (IIIB).	Lidgey, A. L. (IIIB).
Beard, D. G. (IIIB).	Manning, F. E. (IIIA).
Beesley, Y. V. (IIIB).	Mills, E. J. (IIIB).
Bennett, E. M. (IIIA).	Milward, K. J. (IIIB).
Bolt, P. R. (IIIB).	Morgan, J. A. (IIIB).
Brazier, C. O. (IIIA).	O'Dell, A. E. (IIIB).
Bretherton, P. L. (IIIA).	O'Nions, P. D. (IIIB).
Careless, D. R. (IIIA).	Oseland, W. C. (IIIA).
Cooper, E. M. (IIIA).	Pope, B. (IIIA).
Coxhead, S. C. (IIIB).	Preece, J. A. (IIIB).
Craddock, B. (IIIA).	Rawbone, J. E. (IIIA).
Davis, B. H. (IIIA).	Richards, K. E. (IIIA).
Draycott, P. W. (IIIA).	Ross, H. B. (IIIB).
Dryden, D. (IIIB).	Smith, D. (IIIB).
Duxbury, R. (IIIA).	Smith, H. A. (IIIB).
Dyke, A. W. (IIIA).	Squire, J. S. (IIIB).
Foot, M. W. (IIIA).	Swinglehurst, E. A. (IIIA).
George, J. A. (IIIB).	Thornton, A. W. (IIIA).
Grummett, R. K. (IIIB).	Wells, M. A. (IIIA).
Hexley, M. V. (IIIA).	Whittaker, M. (IIIB).
Highman, R. M. (IIIA).	Wilkes, J. A. (IIIB).
Horton, H. (IIIA).	Woodward, C. F. (IIIA).
Hunt, S. P. (IIIB).	Yeomans, A. (IIIB).

There have been 311 pupils in attendance this term.

OLD SCHOLARS' NEWS

In a tennis match with the school on Thursday, July 14th, an Old Scholars' team consisting of Evelyn Holder, Joan Prosser, Josephine Preston, Sylvia Goulbourne, Natalie Smart and Janet Kerby won by seven sets to two.

Robert H. Arnold was made a Deacon in Winchester Cathedral on Sunday, September 25th. He has begun his Ministry in the parish of St. Michael, Basingstoke.

M. W. Butt gained second class honours in the B.A. (Jurisprudence) examination at Oxford in 1948. He has now passed Part 2 of the Barrister's examination. He was called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn last month.

The Old Scholars v. School Cricket Match was played at Ragley on Tuesday, July 19th. The Old Scholars were represented by D. Collett (capt.), G. Hillman, W. Devey, D. Smith, R. Harris, R. Randall, V. Stone, D. Beachus and B. Adkins.

M. W. Steveni has been awarded a scholarship at the Birmingham School of Art.

F. Clark scored 104 not out for Temple Grafton in a cricket match against Wootton Wawen.

The Rev. L. Parsons has been inducted as priest-in-charge of Gally Common Church, Nuneaton.

D. E. G. Hill is with the Forces in Hong Kong.

At the Court Leet, on November 7th, Sidney Ison was elected High Bailiff, and Patrick E. Wheeler, Low Bailiff.

P. D. Steveni gained a bronze medal in a R.A.O.C. shooting competition at Bisley last May.

It is with regret that we record the deaths of three Old Scholars since the publication of last term's magazine. D. A. Hanson, Research Fellow in Anatomy in Birmingham, was killed while mountaineering in Switzerland; R. M. Cook was killed in a motor car accident, and I. J. Eadie in a motor cycle accident. We wish to express our sympathy with the relatives of these Old Boys.

G. V. Adkins is now in the Army.

We are very pleased to learn that F. Rook has made a splendid recovery after his serious operation a short while ago.

The brothers D. P. and M. J. Haines are leaving England for Australia in January. D. P. Haines has been awarded the Efficiency Cup of the Bromsgrove Young Farmers' Club for the second year in succession.

Eileen Rose has gained a B.A. degree with second class honours in history at London University. She has now joined the staff of Messrs. Harrod.

E. H. Mander, who has been headmaster of Halesowen G.S., has been appointed headmaster of Workington G.S., Cumberland. As a result of this appointment, three Old Scholars are now heads of schools in a triangle of thirty miles, as his brother, R. H. Mander, is headmaster of Kelsick G.S., Ambleside, and Janet Wells is headmistress of the County Grammar School for Girls, Barrow-in-Furness.

E. J. Hadwen is taking a four years' course at Aston Technical College, leading to an Engineering Diploma.

J. D. Moizer is now a student at the Birmingham School of Architecture.

Frances Evans has passed the final examination of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, being one of three women candidates in the whole country to pass this examination.

D. H. Eadie and E. G. Gray, having completed their service with the Forces, are now at Oxford University.

H. E. Hadwen is studying Zoology at Birmingham University.

BIRTHS

On March 11th, to Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Graham (nee Joyce Taylor)—a son.

On September 22nd to Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Pott (nee Joan Hansell)—a daughter.

On November 3rd, to Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Walton—a daughter.

On November 13th, to Mr. and Mrs. C. Guillaume—a son.

MARRIAGES

On February 19th at Stratford-on-Avon, Robert Cox to Stella A. Stevens (scholar 1934-38).

On March 25th, at Alum Rock, Trevor C. Thomas to Zena M. Richardson (scholar 1941-44).

On June 15th, at Walsall, Geoffrey H. Swift (scholar 1934-38) to Phyllis Mary Eleanor Roe.

On July 9th, at Alcester, Bernard Ward to Brenda Rose Harris (scholar 1942-47).

On July 16th, at Alcester, Edgar Chattaway (scholar 1925-32) to Dorothy Winifred Lilley (scholar 1930-33).

On August 3rd, at Birmingham, Darcy Walker to June G. E. Higgs (scholar 1940-45).

On August 6th, at Westwood, Coventry, Laurie Parsons (scholar 1930-38) to Betty Lawrie.

On August 31st, at Evesham, Douglas W. L. Summers (scholar 1923-29) to Marjory Eileen Smout.

On September 3rd, at Cheltenham, Peter Weatherley to Pamela M. Creswell (scholar 1935-42).

On September 24th, at Arrow, Robert Bates to Janet Taylor (scholar 1935-40).

On October 1st, at Arrow, Kenneth A. Woods (scholar 1935-39) to Joan L. Beachus (scholar 1939-44).

On October 1st, at Birmingham, Norman George Kirby (scholar 1942-43) to Cynthia Bradley.

On October 8th, at Stratford-on-Avon, Robert Harvey to Jean Marie Horseman (scholar 1940-44).

On October 15th, at Arrow, Evan Owen Rees to Margaret R. Crouch (scholar 1923-28).

On November 5th, at Arrow, James Bax to Ruth E. B. Mason (scholar 1937-43).

On November 12th, at Stratford-on-Avon, Raymond Charles Hartwell to Kathleen Mary Trotman (scholar 1938-40).

DEATHS

On July 25th, Daniel Alan Hanson (scholar 1931-36)—aged 25 years.

On July 26th, Raymond Michael Cook (scholar 1940-46)—aged 20 years.

On October 27th, Ian J. Eadie (scholar 1940-41)—aged 23 years.

RETIREMENT OF MISS WEATHERUP

Miss A. M. Weatherup, who was for many years in charge of Art at A.G.S., retired from teaching at half-term. She joined the Staff in 1918 to assist with the rapidly-growing preparatory department, of which she became head shortly after.

All who passed through the preparatory department will pay a hearty tribute to the work done by Miss Weatherup. Her untiring patience in the classroom, and the care she devoted to training in character and manners, will always be remembered by those who worked with her.

Tribute must also be paid to Miss Weatherup's work in her Art classes. She inspired her pupils with a real keenness for their studies, and many of them reached a high level of attainment. Her tasteful displays of pupils' work in Art and Handwork became a tradition for Sports Day, the high standard of the exhibition of posters in particular receiving year by year well-merited appreciation from all who visited the Art Room.

To Miss Weatherup, in her retirement, all extend their sincere wishes for good health and happiness for many years.

THE SCHOOL TREES

In consequence of the reference by the Chairman of the Governors on Sports Day to the trees around the football field, a number of inquiries have been made about the history of these trees. We have approached Mr. Wells on the subject, and he has given us the following particulars.

At the end of the first World War, Mr. Wells wanted to commemorate in some way the Old Boys who had served in the Forces by putting something useful, beautiful and reasonably lasting on the school premises. The only shade at that time was that afforded by the big elm by the girls' gate (this tree had to be felled some years ago because it was considered dangerous), and the school field was very hot in the summer term. More trees had long been wanted, and the Governors readily granted Mr. Wells's request that they should be bought, one for each Old Boy who had entered the Forces. The trees were obtained and were planted by Mr. Ankcorn, assisted by Mr. Banner. No formal ceremony was held when the planting was completed, but the boys and girls of that time were told about them and why they had been put in.

Almost all these trees remain, and have fulfilled Mr. Wells's idea of providing pleasant shade for hot summer days. One only had to be removed to make room for the construction of the covered way when the new block of classrooms was being erected in 1940.

OLLA PODRIDA

Water, writes L.G., was put in an operating dish.

The Philosopher's Stone, according to L.J., was a place where the Greeks worshipped.

A deliquescent substance gives off heat when cooling, says A.D.

She asked for the head of John the Baptist in a voucher, states B.S.

He went to Africa, says C.M., to help put right his deflected lung.

Boyle's book is variously referred to as "The Septical Chemist" by D.L., and "The Susceptible Chemist" by S.B.

In Switzerland, writes B.W., are found the beautiful Alps with their lovely graziers.

Blue Vitriol, on the authority of D.H., is a white powder.

The in-shore waters abound with herrings, mackerel, pilchards and fishing villages, remarks J.W.

Lavoisier was mixed up in some trouble in 1994 and beheaded, says B.C.

The collective name for a group of weevils, says C.J.E.K., is a biscuit.

Gleanings from third form note books—a hexogin has eight sides; other polegons are the pentigon and the hexen.

Where, we should like R.C.W. to inform us, was that herbaceous cow!

There are only female members of the opposite sex in there, says A.M.H.

E.B. tells us that an aged descendant was paying them a visit.

An Upper Fifth scientist blew a hole in a test-tube and weighed it.

Where in the school was that nostalgic smell of peppermints!

A Third-former, when asked if she had lost a blue pen, inquired: "What colour is it?"

THE SIXTH FORM, 1949

The other day I was looking through a bound volume of the school magazines of ten years ago, when I noticed several articles on the sixth form. It appears that they had to reside in a cold and draughty hut, known as the "frige." Later they were moved into "a wholly inadequate cell," the room now used by Mrs. Rutter, and had most of their lessons on the art-room landing, amid jeers from the rest of the school. I thought it would be a good idea to take up the tradition and write my magazine article on life in the present-day sixth form.

We are situated next door to that "cell." Our room is certainly larger, but so is our present population, and even now the whole form cannot sit down together in comfort. Our tables, and the history and English libraries, all take up space, and we have recently acquired a hideous row of blue lockers to accommodate our books—they quite spoil the room. Despite these, we are periodically ejected for an afternoon, so that the Governors can hold a meeting. We certainly seem to have more comfort in the sixth form now than was had previously, and at times we are quite warm. This may be because we are situated opposite the drying room—one of the hottest places on earth, bar the tropics.

Now the winter is approaching we are noticing an annoying habit of one of our electric light bulbs. After about three minutes of use it goes out, and no amount of persuasion will make it function. Opinions have been put forward that it is the work of the Poltergeist.

One way in which we fall below the standards of our predecessors is the invention of nicknames. At present we have only one ingenious one—the Poltergeist, which name is applied by an artist to one of our scientists. Apart from this we seem to have been rather unimaginative, but one boy will shortly earn himself a nickname. He is one of our budding biologists, and will insist on carrying the entire biology library around with him.

A distinction may be drawn between the sixth and the other forms in the way they spend their dinner hours. While the rest of the school is energetically engaged in some out-door sport, most of the sixth form skulk indoors. Certain of them attempt at first to work, but soon give up, and join in one of the discussions on subjects many and varied, from knitting to nitro-benzene, from mathematics to music. An alternative occupation is to read the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, and certain scientists seem recently to be spending most of their dinner hours doing extra practical work in the physics laboratory.

Quite often the relative peace is disturbed by an irate member of the staff bursting in to enquire for one of the prefects, and interrupting his perusal of *Punch*, or one of our more enlightening periodicals, to inform him that he should be doing field duty. Then perhaps a faint knock will herald the arrival of a small boy wanting to deliver a dinner ticket, a punishment, or sometimes a large parcel. These arrive periodically for the photographic society, and the sight of its secretary wrestling with the knots causes the utmost annoyance to his audience as they eagerly await a view of the contents.

An interruption which used to be fairly common was the aggravating noise of typing next door, which used regularly to disturb us, regardless of what we were doing. One day it even worried us in the middle of a Latin examination! Recently, however, the partition between our room and Mrs. Rutter's study was reinforced, and is now almost soundproof.

Our privileges seem to be rather fewer than in "the good old days." Our sixth form table in the canteen has been deserted for several years; we are now separated, and pairs of us watch the rest of the school demolishing its dinner.

Last, but not least, we have to work just as hard as ever. However, it is very pleasant to be in the top form of the school, studying the subjects one enjoys most, no longer a pupil but a student. These pleasures outweigh all the irksome duties that accompany them.

C. J. E. KEMPSTER (VI).

FORTY YEARS AN ORGANIST

My grandmother retired a year ago, after playing her village church organ for forty years. She often told me how, as a little girl, she walked from her home, the "Manor Farm," to the next village about five miles away for music lessons, as buses and bicycles were not about in those days.

My grandmother's mother played the harmonium in the village church every Sunday. As a child, gran. sat by her mother's side, and sometimes she was allowed to play a hymn during the service.

Grandmother often says this stands out in her memory, and began her career as an organist.

G. A. BLAYNEE (Upp. IV.B).

ICE-CREAM

One day my brother was playing in the yard with his toys. Over the road there was an ice-cream shop. He watched several people coming out with ice-creams, so he thought he would like one. He went into the house, looked for mother to ask her for some money. He looked all over the house and could not find her. He went to the mantelpiece, where he kept his money box, and pulled out what he thought was three pennies. He then went and stood outside the shop, not knowing whether to go in or not. His mother was at the top of the garden hanging out the washing, and when she came back she could not find him.

After a few minutes he came back with the money, as he had decided not to buy one. His mother asked him where he had been and what he had the money for. So he told her the story. He had taken three half-crowns for three pennies. He said he thought he had not got enough money, so he came back.

HILARY WILKES (Low. IV.B).

GOING TO RAMSEY

Do you realise how many forms of transport one may use in a journey of two hundred miles? From Alcester to Ramsey, during the summer holidays, we used no less than eight.

At half-past seven in the morning, we left the house and walked along to the bus-stop, carrying our heavy cases. The first stage of our journey was now completed by the first means of transport man ever had, that is, by walking.

The bus was the next stage. Buses have done a great deal towards taking, from little villages, people who are too far from a station to go by rail to do their shopping or go to the theatre. The bus we were on took us to Birmingham.

In Birmingham, we went straight to New Street Station and waited for the Birmingham-Liverpool express. Trains, especially if express trains, are a quick and comfortable means of transport, on land, second in speed only to air-transport.

Once in Liverpool, we again walked—this time to get from Lime Street Station to the pier-head. Here we sat watching the boats come in and wondering where they had come from. One of the larger boats, the "Empress of Australia," was loading up with troops and their baggage prior to sailing to Hong Kong. The ship which was going to take us to the Isle of Man, the "King Orry," soon came in and, once on board, I explored her thoroughly. There seemed to be everything one needed—cafés, sitting-rooms, smoke-rooms, small cabins and couches in a large cabin to rest on.

At Douglas, we took a horse-drawn tram. These trams are known locally as "toast-racks." They resemble toast-racks as they have no covering overhead and are open at the sides, giving an unrestricted view. They travel so slowly that people can mount them or alight without the horse being stopped. This method of transport took us the two miles along the promenade to the electric-railway station.

The trains on the railway were of two kinds—the closed ones, like ordinary trains, and the open ones with no glass in the windows but with a screen to draw down if it was raining or very windy. In speed, the electric trains travel little or no faster than a bus, taking about an hour to cover the sixteen miles to Ramsey.

At Ramsey, we took a taxi from just by the station to the hotel. There are always plenty of taxis in Ramsey, so that one can, if one wants to go anywhere special, just hail one and go.

Finally, we reached our hotel, used the lift to reach our bedrooms, and settled in. What a boon lifts are, even to those who have their rooms on the first floor!

BARBARA DRULLER (Upp. V.A.).

SPEEDWAY THRILLS

Two of the most up-to-date sports in the world today are motor-cycle speedway and its little brother, cycle speedway, which is the most modern of the lot, being only about three years old.

Motor-cycle speedway is a great crowd-drawer. Like Association football, it has its own special little crowd of fervent supporters, who go "all out" to encourage their team from the terraces.

The teams themselves are composed of eight men and eight machines and perhaps one or two spare machines. There are six men of the team proper and two reserve riders. The six men of the team proper have four rides each and the reserves have two.

The track is composed of any loose surface, such as cinders, or red shale, or granite powder. It is oval in shape and the riders go four times round. In each race there are two riders from each team. The first man home gets three points, the second two and the third one, the last man getting the "booby." If any team has its two riders finishing in first and second places and the opposing team has its two riders in third and last places, then the team who has the men in the first two positions gets a five to one points advantage over the other team.

Cycle speedway has one great difference from speedway proper, in that the machines used for racing are only pedal cycles stripped down. Otherwise the rules are just the same as for ordinary speedway.

D. I. PEARCE (Upp. V.B.).

I WISH I COULD REVISIT CAPETOWN

When I visited Capetown at the age of five, I was not old enough to appreciate the visit. The few memories I have of that lovely city make me long to go there again some day.

We arrived there one misty, rainy morning. Everyone crowded on deck to have their first glimpse of Table Mountain, but it had its tablecloth on, for the top of it was shrouded in low clouds.

I would like to walk through the Municipal Botanic Gardens, which contained about eight thousand kinds of flowers, trees and plants, and study the different types of vegetation. It was strange to see cactus trees and oaks growing side by side.

In those days I was far more interested in the Indian snake charmer who was squatting by the entrance gates. As he played his music the snakes would rear their heads out of a box and sway to the rhythm of the music.

If I could pay another visit I would make a point of going to the summit of Table Mountain for the wonderful view of the city and the sea. There is an aerial cable way which takes visitors up every twenty minutes. I remember watching, fascinated, as the small car made its way up the cables, up and up into the blue sky, until it disappeared from view at the top of the mountain.

Surely Capetown is one of the loveliest cities in the world, and would be well worth a second visit.

WENDY LOVELL (Upp. IV.A.).

THE VILLAGE

The quiet Warwickshire village was drowsing in the warm afternoon sun one day in late August. People slept in their deck chairs, shopkeepers dozed behind their counters, the policeman's bulky figure propped up the door-post of the Police Station, dogs drowsed on door steps, flies buzzed lazily, fishermen nodded on the banks of the river; all was quiet save for the screaming of the swallows as they dived and swooped in and out of the narrow sunlit streets and the old half-timbered houses.

All were asleep.

Asleep?

Dogs stirred in their sleep, got up and barked; the policeman straightened his helmet and adopted a dignified attitude; people began to awaken. For along the narrow road dust was rising — a small group of vehicles was approaching.

The villagers murmured, horrified, hoping that they were not trippers. They were! Horrors!

The coaches stopped in the empty market place, the shouting, happy trippers descended in hordes. The village woke to the screaming of tired children, the shouts of anxious mothers, and the more gentle tones of fathers trying to persuade them nothing was wrong and not to worry.

The shops became crowded with people wanting lemonade, buns and biscuits, souvenirs and safety pins. After two hours of commotion and worry the holiday-makers left. The dogs settled down, shopkeepers again relaxed in their chairs, the fish began to bite again, the policeman leant thankfully on the door-post, and the village fell asleep—*again*.

P. DREW (Low. V.B).

CLIMBING ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

Up, up, up. Will the steps never end? Up and round! Up and round! Oh dear, my poor legs and feet. I'm sure my shoes are wearing out. It's dark and dreary with just bare walls to see. But why worry? We're here now. Gosh! what a long way up we are! The people in the church below look like bees. Now we have been told to put our ears to the wall. Hark! what's that noise? It sounds like a voice. Why, how silly of me—of course it's a voice. A man outside this thick wall is talking. Isn't it wonderful? We can hear him! I expect by now you realise we are in the whispering gallery. As the whispering gallery is so big, the guides have to use microphones to speak to us.

Then, up, up, up, round and round, we go again. This time we end up in the fresh air. Right above the dome we are, and isn't it windy? The view is splendid up here. We can see all over London—Big Ben, Tower Bridge, Tower of London, Victoria Station, and lots of other landmarks.

Well, I think we've had enough, so let's go back. Down, down, down we go this time. Down, down, down, down and round, round, round and round, till we come to the bottom. Phew! What a trip!

SUSAN SALMONS (Low. IV.A).

IN A FARAWAY PLACE

There she was, perched on a stool, seemingly unconscious of her occupation. Her bright, dark eyes were darting glances here and there, always as though she was looking, searching for someone. While her eyes were thus seeking everywhere, the garment she was knitting grew swiftly under her deft fingers; it was brown in colour, and the pattern worked in many colours and shapes seemed to have no definite design.

Accustomed as she was to the noises of the city; the clatter of hooves on the cobbles; the shouts of the coachmen and the cracks of their whips; the clangs of milk churns and the bangs as they were dumped on the waggons; the cries of the children—accustomed, as I say, to these and other noises, even she looked up inquiringly when a loud crash occurred outside. Then a babble of voices reached her ears, the sound of many people running; there were shouts, and cries of joy.

"Hmm! A wine cask must have fallen from a waggon," she thought.

She was thus musing on the plight of the poor wretches who were presumably trying to save some of the precious wine, when suddenly a voice broke into her thoughts, jerking her back to reality.

"This is the B.B.C. Light Programme. You will now hear an adaptation of 'The Tale of Two Cities,' by Charles Dickens."

* * * * *

Postscript. It has been brought to my notice recently that there has been a remarkable increase in the exponents of the art of knitting. We all sincerely hope that they will not follow in the steps of Madame Defarge.

MARY BURROWS (VI).

ADDITION AND SUBTRACTION

A toast rack? No, she's got two already. A tea cosy? Hm, not a bad idea. Too expensive though! Nylons? Just the thing! But my hopes were soon dashed by, "You may get a pair in three months, Madam." Oh, well! I suppose it will have to be hankies again.

"These white linen are rather nice, Madam."

A pause.

"Or perhaps you prefer these spotted, or these flowered ones?"

"Haven't you anything a little fancier?"

"Oh, yes, Madam, but they are rather expensive," she said looking dubiously at me.

That decided it. However expensive they were she was not going to look down her nose at me and suggest that I could not afford them.

While she packed the parcel I carefully put the contents of my purse, all but a half-penny, a charm, and a hair-grip, on the counter, trying desperately to give the impression that my purse was bottomless and at the same time wishing it was.

As I walked home I wondered whether, although Aunt would probably be very pleased, the fancy addition was worth the resulting subtraction.

JANE DAYER-SMITH (Low. V.A.).

SHOULD HOMEWORK BE ABOLISHED?

"Should homework be abolished?" The answer which springs to my mind is definitely "Yes," but on second thoughts, I'm not so sure.

If homework were abolished, when would I do all the work I now do at home? Unless the school hours were lengthened, I just wouldn't get it done. I am working for an examination, so homework is even more important than usual.

I suppose that working at home gives me practice in working by myself. In the middle of an examination I can't turn round and ask my neighbour what she thinks I ought to do in "such-and-such" a case, so I must get used to having only myself to rely on for my information.

Also, I have noticed that whenever we have a prep. lesson I find that I am not able to work very well with my other class-mates, because there is always some whispering or sign-making going on which proves more interesting than my prep.

This reasoning, however, can't make me really believe in homework. I can't help thinking how wonderful it would be if, when I got home from school in the afternoon, I could say to myself, "No more school work until tomorrow morning." Then I should proceed to think whether I should go and call on a friend, or read, or get out my stamp-collecting outfit, or finish "that odd bit of needlework" that worries mother so.

In answer to this question then, I say "Yes," but hope that some clever person will invent a way in which twice as much work as at present can be crammed into a thirty-five minute lesson, so that my full answer can be, "Yes, because there is no need for homework any more."

JILI, KEMPSTER (Upp. V.A)

A SLIGHT INTERRUPTION

This takes place on the radio, where a housewife is giving cooking recipes on one wavelength. This has got confused with another wavelength, on which a gardener is speaking. This is the result:—

Housewife: First of all you mix the flour with some—

Gardener: *Marigold seed*; then you put the garden fork in the—

Housewife: bowl, and then stir briskly for—

Gardener: six months. Of course, if you plant the seeds where there is plenty of—

Housewife: jam, then you will find the pastry will form into a—

Gardener: gooseberry bush, which will prevent it from the—

Housewife: eggs, when you have broken them, put them in a basin and whisk them until you are sure you have all the—

Gardener: soil in a box. That is all for now, and don't forget to put your radishes in—

Housewife: this programme next week.

J. LANE (Upp. IV.A).

THE FLICK OF AN EAR.

The news that at the recent Paris Cat Show the title of "Most Beautiful Cat in the World" was conferred upon a four-year-old blue Persian glamour cat, of unpronounceable name and incredible stature will, I fear, cause little or no stir amongst all but the cat lovers of the world.

Nor, likewise, will the observant remarks of a B.B.C. reporter concerning the attitude and behaviour of those admirable felines evoke more than a passing interest. The majority, nay the whole, of the noise at the show, he remarks, came not from the cats, as might be expected, since it was a cat show, but from human beings. They spoke incessantly to their beloved pets. The cats on the other hand refused to take any notice of their adoring owners, and no matter how vociferously or how eloquently they were addressed, returned but one answer—the flick of an ear.

Yet, if we could but realise it, what a wealth of philosophy lies in that simple yet significant movement, and how true a picture of life. A cat, brutally subjected to a never-ending onslaught of ridiculous human speech in which it has not the slightest interest does not spit, or hiss, or howl or batter itself against its cage. Such peremptory actions are beneath the dignity of all well-bred cats. It does not even purr sarcastically—its nature is too fine for that. It calmly licks one paw and flicks an ear.

How noble, how expressive a gesture is that simple flick of an ear! We humans have nothing to rival or even to compare with it. If the conversation of a friend bores us we have no simple movement like the cat's flick of an ear, which can automatically exclude us for a moment from the rest of the world and in particular from our boring conversation. We have to bear with it and earn for ourselves the epithet "polite."

How much more pleasant it must be in such circumstances to be a cat—to be able by one simple movement to cut out the rest of the world. Let humans talk as they will for as long as they will, the cat has no need to join in. By a flick of the ear it declares just how contemptuous and oblivious it is of everything.

This cat show at Paris may hold a lesson for us all. It may even become a very significant date in history. Maybe it may even happen that when mankind's era on earth is completed, and when the cat has taken his place, that very blue Persian cat of unpronounceable name and incredible stature, who so majestically flicked his ear, may in feline history occupy a similar place to that occupied by Plato or Aristotle in our own history. Who knows?

J. HOLIFIELD (VI).

A.G.S ABROAD

This September, a party from the senior school, accompanied by six members of staff, made a very enjoyable and a most memorable trip to Paris.

Here are some extracts from the diary, kept by two members of the party while in Paris.

Aug. 30th.

The coach hired to take us to London left Birmingham in the early hours of the morning. The only occasion which caused anxiety as to whether we should arrive in time to catch our connection was when the engine of the coach began to boil !! Luckily, we were near a garage and were able to refill the radiator with water. We had a very calm crossing on the "Londres," no one being seasick, although a few resorted to their "Kwells." At Dieppe we caught a train to Paris, where we were met by our guide, Mlle. Guiton. We were then taken to our hotels in a coach, and after being shown to our rooms, we went to the Cité Club, where we were to have all our mid-day and evening meals. Each meal consisted of four courses, usually two meat dishes and two fruit dishes, although our evening meal always began with soup. After dinner we were very thrilled to visit a café and drink coffee at tables on the pavement in true French style!

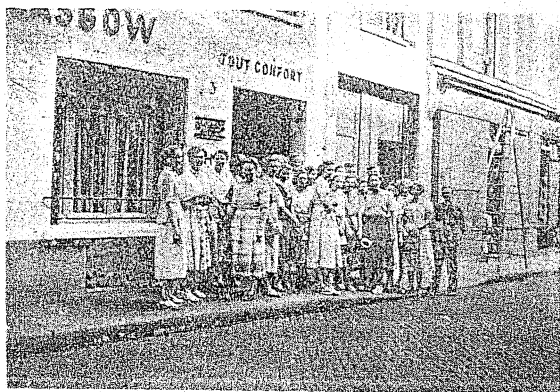
Aug. 31st.

After a Continental breakfast (rolls and coffee), we all walked to the Arc de Triomphe, and climbed about three hundred steps to the top. We had a marvellous view of the very straight French avenues lined with trees which form the "Etoile" round the Arc de Triomphe. In the afternoon we were shown round Paris in a coach. We visited the Palais de Chaillot, where the United Nations met last year, and looked across at the Eiffel Tower. From here we went to Les Invalides (the equivalent of the Chelsea Pensioners' Hospital), where we saw Napoleon Bonaparte's tomb, which seemed impressive, though not particularly beautiful. The tomb is in the Church of St. Louis, which has windows which give a yellow light. Afterwards we visited a café for tea, returning past the Grand Palais and the Petit Palais on the Champs Elysées to the Place de la Concorde, the largest square in Paris, and so back to the hotel.

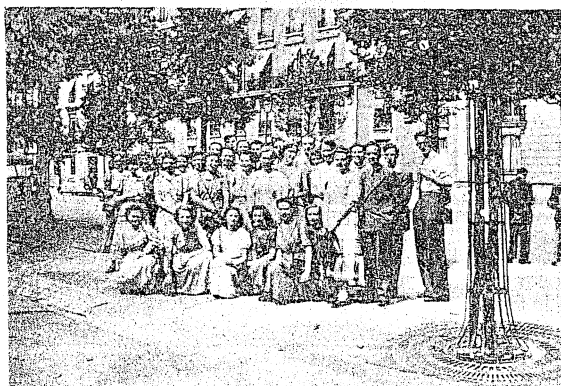
Sept. 1st.

We set off by "Metro" to L'Opéra in the morning, where we divided into groups and went shop-gazing. We saw many beautiful things, but had to be content with looking at them because most articles were much too dear for our pockets. In the afternoon we continued our tour of Paris by coach. We drove along "Les Quais" on each side of the river, looking at "Les Bouquinistes"—little portable stalls where secondhand books and pictures are sold. Then we entered the Latin quarter on the left bank, and following the Boulevard St. Michel past the Sorbonne, the home of the University in Paris, we drove up the Mont St. Geneviève to the Panthéon.

- Snapshot Memories



Hotel Glasgow

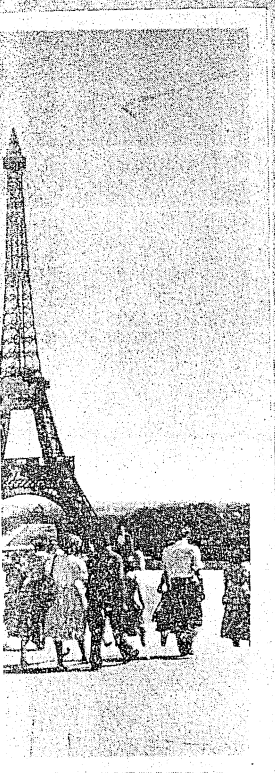


Au Cité Club

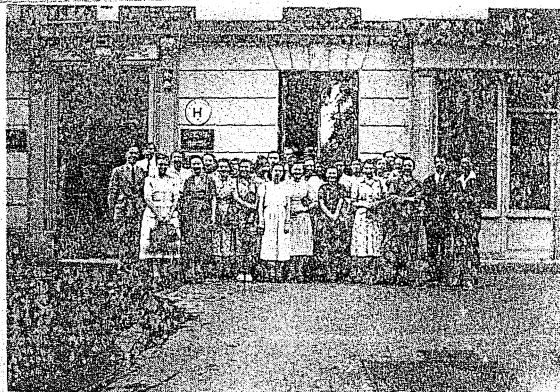


La Tour

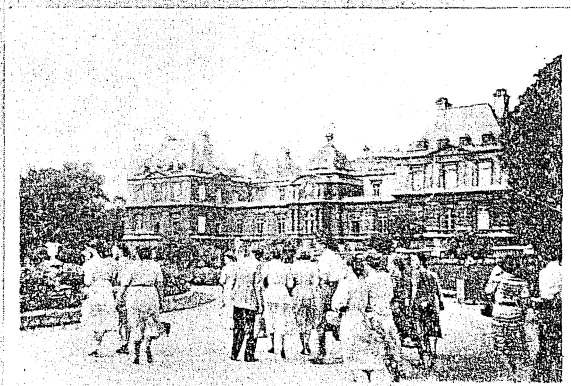
ories of Paris -



Eiffel



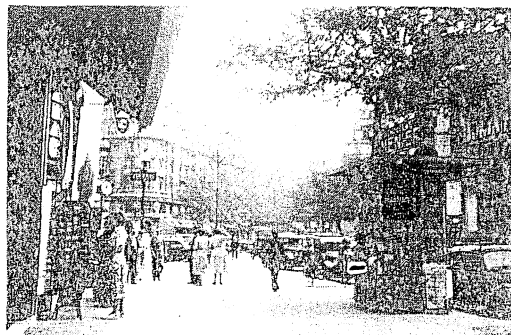
Hotel Excelsior



Au Luxembourg

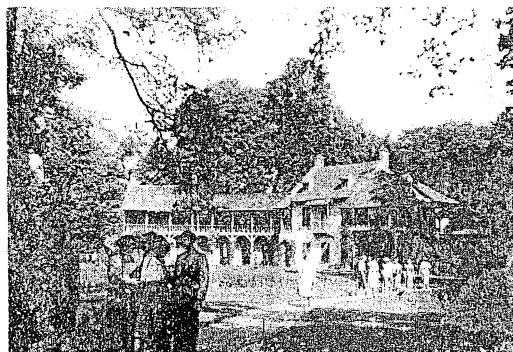
More Snapshot Memories of Paris.

Scène aux
Boulevards



Artiste à
Montmartre

Hameau de
Marie Antoinette,
Versailles



Close by lies the Palais de Luxembourg, built for Marie de Medici. We walked through the beautiful gardens, where we watched the children sailing their boats on the pond, then on to the Gobelin Factory, which specialises in the weaving of tapestries. Here we watched artists at work on huge tapestries, which take years to weave by hand. They only take special orders, as they are a State monopoly.

We returned via the Place des Vosges, once a fashionable square where Victor Hugo lived. We had tea at one of the famous Dupont cafés in Place de la République, where a column is erected to those executed in the Revolution, and in the pavement can be seen the position of the dreaded Bastille.

After dinner some of us went to the cinema to see "Ainsi Finit la Nuit," others to see Maurice Chevalier in "Le Silence est d'Or." Both films were in French, of course, but, much to our surprise, we were able to understand them!

Sept. 2nd.

The whole party visited the Ile de la Cité, where we went round the Cathedral of Notre Dame. When we entered, mass was being held, but it was impossible to understand what was being said, as the service was conducted in Latin. Here there are many very beautiful stained glass windows, noticeably two large rose windows in blue and gold, which are world famous, as is also the stained glass in the Sainte Chappelle in the middle of the Palais de Justice, our next visit. Then we walked past the Conciergerie, along the Quai des Fleurs (the flower market) on to the right bank. In the afternoon we went shopping, and after tea we made a trip up the Seine, and we almost filled the steamer with our purchases! We cruised round the Ile de la Cité and the Ile St. Louis, passing under all the famous bridges. The most noticeable were the Pont Neuf, which is the oldest bridge, and the beautiful Pont Alexandre Trois, with its pillars bearing prancing horses and gilt carvings.

Sept. 3rd.

We made an early start by train from the Place de la Concorde to Versailles. Approaching the palace from the huge Place d'Armes, we entered the chapel with its beautifully painted ceiling and the gorgeous State apartments, including the Salle de Glaces, where the Peace Treaty of 1918 was signed. We then walked round the gardens—down a broad alley to the Grand Canal, where we had a picnic lunch. In the afternoon we visited a museum of old coaches and the country house of Marie Antoinette, a small, picturesque village in rustic style. The inmates of Hotel Glasgow went to the theatre at night, but we at the Excelsior held a party to celebrate the birthday of one of our "gang."

Sept. 4th.

Some of the party rose early (6.30 a.m.) and attended Holy Communion at the British Embassy Church. We spent the rest of the morning "quietly," gaining strength for our visit to the Louvre in the afternoon, where we saw all the great art treasures. In the evening we all visited the

Comédie-Française to see Beaumarchais' "Mariage de Figaro." I do not think that any one of our party will ever forget the intense heat throughout the entire performance, crowded as we were in small boxes called "Baignoires."

Sept. 5th.

We made a trip to Montmartre in the morning, once a hill outside Paris, now crowned by the Sacré-Coeur, a modern church in Byzantine style, and again there were a great many steps to climb. In the afternoon we went to the top of the Eiffel Tower, fortunately, by lift this time! Here we had a complete view of the city and all that we had visited. In the evening some of the party went to the Mogador Theatre, where we saw a beautiful musical show entitled "Imperial Violets." The costumes were magnificent throughout the twenty-five scenes. This was an apt end for a marvellous holiday.

Sept. 6th.

Early in the morning a terrific thunderstorm broke out over Paris and the first rain during our stay fell, and so it was through the drenched streets we drove to catch our train. With regret we watched Paris glide past the streaming windows, but by the time we reached Dieppe the sun was shining and we had a calm crossing, though one of the party was seasick! Some of us who thoroughly enjoyed both crossings, had a meal on the boat—the "Arromanches"—our last French meal. At Victoria we were met by Miss Johnson (who left school last July). We had a hasty meal and then started for home. The Stratford travellers arrived home about 1.30 a.m., and *we* at Birmingham about 3.30. Thank goodness there was no school that day!

JEAN H. CODLING,
JEAN G. FINNEMORE.

FRENCH IMPRESSIONS

It does not lie within my power to present a "Guide-book to Paris": to do this one must have a flat mind, and mine is too hilly. So I must try to present a picture of France as I saw it, the series of vivid impressions which different aspects of that country gave to me.

On our arrival at Dieppe we were overwhelmed by noise and bustle, so characteristic of France. I was not so much bewildered as thoroughly amazed by the way in which the seemingly numberless porters, in their baggy blue breeches and berets, scrambled on deck and in a matter of minutes were running back again laden with suitcases which they wrested from anyone who looked helpless. My next impression was again one of noise and scurry—horns tooting and blowing, trains screeching and puffing, men pouring forth their voluble French in a most bewildering stream. We were in Paris itself.

Paris ! The place where vivid plaid shirts were the vogue for all men and boys ; the place where gay orange, scarlet and bright green sunblinds were tied to the delicate wrought iron balconies to ward off the scorching sun ; the wonderful, exciting and successful combination of ancient and modern.

Through the maze of visits to " places of interest," a few highlights stand out sharply in my memory. One was the extreme ugliness, as it seemed to me, of both the Arc de Triomphe and the Eiffel Tower. Another, in direct contrast, was the sombre dignity and beauty of Notre Dame Cathedral, with its beautiful medieval carving, its very amazing gargoyles, exquisite stained-glass windows, and above all its very holy atmosphere, unspoilt even by the postcard vendors inside the main door itself. Notre Dame fulfilled my expectations ; the Sainte Chapelle exceeded them. Here was one of the most exquisite examples of medieval interior decoration that I have ever seen. In the lower chamber the walls and pillars were painted barbaric blue and red with gilt fleur-de-lys and gilt tracery on the ceiling. In trying to describe this I cannot do justice to it, but let it suffice to say that it appealed to me very much. The upper chamber was equally impressive, the most interesting and beautiful feature being the stained-glass windows all the way round the walls, depicting the complete story of the Old Testament. Perhaps what spoilt this for me was that I could not look at everything with sufficiently close attention in so short a time. Versailles was really what I expected to see, but far more impressive. I was fascinated by the almost lifelike appearance of the figures in the murals, by the ancient Gobelin tapestries, and by the exquisitely delicate Marie Antoinette furniture. Indeed, I felt almost covetous when I looked at the delicate gilt and tapestry furniture.

This was the France I saw, with the old and the new inseparable. The ancient buildings jostled the new, and the cafés seemed to spill out onto the pavement because of this. The new cars shared the roads with the old " fiacres." This was France, strange, fascinating, yet faintly haunting.

DOROTHY A. ROSE (VI).

" THEY CAME TO A CITY."

Well, the great day—or rather night—finally dawned, that is, fell. A solitary coach rattled along a winding trail from Birmingham to Stratford, collecting excited wayfarers, whose disturbed slumbers were momentarily forgotten. It was not until daybreak that resolutions regarding sleep began to take form among the drowsy travellers—they were short-lived, however, because some considerate people insisted on waking the others to see the dawn. This truly glorious sight consisted of a sickly yellow glow behind a black cloud ; so the disgruntled beholders abandoned Phœbus and concentrated on the sandwiches.

Following the train journey to Newhaven, the customs provided unusual interest, but everyone passed through without incident ; although one rather tired sports lover is believed to have stated in an undertone,

when asked if he had anything to declare, that it was not cricket. The crossing was good, but a little disappointing as no one was seasick—consequently, sundry bets about who should suffer first did not materialize.

A through train conveyed the party to Paris, on which, by the time the capital was reached, the last fish-paste sandwich had been devoured. As a result of the heat it was not unlike sardines-on-toast. The last part of the journey, from the station to the hotel was, like the first, by coach. When the last-named vehicle arrived at the Hotel Glasgow, everyone made a great rush for the door, obligingly taking the wrong cases, so that a frantic search had to be made for personal property. The coach seemed to suffer more from these exertions than did the passengers, and the French driver was not slow to voice his opinions ! All was finally disentangled, including the party, and the latter was divided between the two hotels.

From fate to food. The first meal at the Cité Club was encountered with mixed feelings. Several theories were forwarded as to the genealogy of the meat, followed by a debate on whether it was of pensionable age when it expired ; but the question ceased to interest the girls after someone claimed his portion had quivered. Each succeeding course was subjected to autopsy ; so it was fortunate for the girls that the dreaded snails were not included. The looked-for wine did, however, make an appearance and found a ready market. This provided an excellent opportunity for the more venturesome to use their French, and the first person to break the ice ordered two bottles in German. He was rather concerned, however, when the cosmopolitan waiter brought three !

Because extra meals were very expensive at the cafés, one section of the party resolved to cut down tea to one cup and no eatables. Waiters were rather puzzled with requests for twelve separate cups of tea . . . ces fols Anglais ! No one perished of starvation, however ; indeed, some over-ate if anything, judging from the amounts of food consumed at late-night birthday parties in the hotels. On these occasions people returned bearing bunches of bananas and other fruit as well as " bouteilles de vin." Incidentally, it was discovered by certain " connoisseurs " that wine is much more palatable, and is certainly improved, when it is mixed in equal proportions with sugar—how little these Frenchmen know ! From vittles to visits.

Excursions by Metro were, at first, particularly hazardous : several people were all but caught in the quickly-closing automatic doors. Losing an arm is one thing, but having to carry one's case all the way home with one limb would be very tiring, to say the least. Notre Dame was reached by Metro, and everyone was impressed by the grandeur of the edifice, though one member of the Science Sixth is said to have been a little disappointed at the non-appearance of the Hunchback.

The boys had their laughs at the expense of the girls, on the other hand, and one occasion is worth mentioning. The latter were standing over a grating set in the pavement when they suddenly found themselves becoming hot and bothered in more senses than one. The grille marked a ventilation shaft of the Metro and, as a train passed below, it caused a great rush of hot air which nearly lifted them off their feet.

Lack of space precludes anything but a mention of the girls' pursuit of nylons ; the two boys who cleaned all the girls' shoes at the Excelsior, one of whom accidentally placed his stockinged feet in the brown polish ; those who believed that Pompadour was one of Louis XIV's poodles : the boy who translated *La Rue de Malesherbes* as " the street of bad cabbages "

This glorious holiday had to end, however, and it was with increasing regret that each stage of the return journey was undertaken. Finally, the coach scattered its weary load between Stratford and Birmingham and rattled on into the darkness—the Alcester contingent had returned from Paris to reality.

A. J. DALRYMPLE. (Un fol Anglais).

A CAMPING HOLIDAY

Being a highly ambitious family with a lust for adventure, this summer we attempted what some pessimists thought impossible. We built and furnished a large caravan, and then towed it away to the wild North Devon coast miles from anywhere.

Our " waggon " was finally placed perilously near to the edge of a cliff. The holiday itself was lovely ; we had lots to eat—far more than if staying in somebody's boarding house and living on watery cabbage. The weather was marvellous, and we were just beginning to think how lucky we were, when strangely enough came the most enjoyable day of the holiday. One afternoon a mist blew up from the sea and enclosed us in a wet blanket, so to speak. It is a wonderful feeling to be enclosed completely and feel cut off from the world, to be able to hear the crashing of the sea and not be able to see it, and to feel that the one link with civilisation is the lighthouse hooting across the bay. Anyway, to cut a long story short, we made the most of that afternoon, and we had for supper some of my mother's patent stew, which is " absolutely smashing," in the words of one small brother. Then we lit the oil lamps in the caravan and finally went to bed with twice as many blankets as usual because of the cold. Next morning, much to our disappointment, the mist had gone and the hooter at the lighthouse had stopped. There was one very damp tailpiece to this episode—we forgot to bring the bathing towels inside when the mist came, and they remained draped on the guy ropes of the tent. Consequently, next morning every towel in camp was soaking wet and so we had to miss washing that morning. But, to quote again the youngest member of the family, " I couldn't care less ! "

DRUSILLA MORTIMORE (Upp. V.B).

NOTES AND NEWS

The Autumn term, which should have opened on Wednesday, September 7th, did not actually open until the following Monday, September 12th, the delay being caused by trouble with drains.

The Prefects this term are :—*Boys* : Holifield, Kempster, Hadwen, Perryman, Tarver, Bamford, Blundell, Buckley, Stanley. *Girls* : D. Rose, A. Perkins, C. Hartwell, D. Browne, J. Davies, M. Williams, R. Varney, M. Burrows, F. Highman, J. Codling, Janet Holder, J. Finnemore.

Sides Captains are :—*Brownies* : Holifield, R. Varney (games), J. Davies (Arts and Crafts) ; *Jackals* : Tarver, A. Perkins (games), F. Highman (Arts and Crafts) ; *Tomtits* : Hadwen, Janet Holder (games), C. Hartwell (Arts and Crafts).

Cricket caps were gained by Adkins and Evans (for the second time), Brookes, Holifield ; tennis colours by Janet Holder and Josephine Holder.

A cricket bat, presented by Mr. G. R. Mason for the best progress with the bat during the season, was awarded to Brookes.

A pair of batting gloves for the best all-round progress in cricket in the Upper School (over 15) was presented to Blundell ii.

A cricket ball, presented by Mr. W. Ison for the best all round progress in cricket in the Lower School, was gained by Clark.

Mr. J. Tuckey has presented to the school a Silver Cup to be held by the girl Tennis Champion, and to take the place of the Gold Medal which was formerly awarded.

In the Tennis Cup Final, Janet Holder beat Josephine Holder, 6—1, 6—2.

The Middle School Girls' Tennis Tournament was held on Thursday, July 14th, and the Upper School Tournament on Tuesday, July 19th.

On Wednesday, July 20th, members of the Lower Fifth and the Upper Fourth, with Miss Young and Mr. Thornton, attended a performance of "Macbeth" at the Memorial Theatre, Stratford-on-Avon.

A party of staff and senior pupils visited Paris during the last week of the summer holidays. The gratitude of all is due to Mr. and Mrs. Petherbridge, who made all the arrangements and conducted the party. Details and impressions of this visit appear in other pages of this magazine.

C. J. E. Kempster has been awarded a State Scholarship, tenable at Oxford, and has been accepted at University College.

County Major Scholarships have been awarded to J. Holifield (Worcestershire) and to C. J. E. Kempster and J. B. Dance (Warwickshire).

At the end of last term Miss Johnson and Mrs. Tate left the Staff.

This term we welcomed to the Staff Miss A. E. Jolley (to teach biology) and Miss M. Moizer (to teach domestic science).

On Friday, September 23rd, a Sixth Form science party, with Mr. Thornton, paid a visit to the Physical Laboratories and Atomic Research Department of Birmingham University.

At half-term Miss A. M. Weatherup retired from teaching, and left the Staff, of which she had been a member for the past thirty years. A tribute to her work appears in another page.

Since half-term the Art classes have been taken by Mrs. Powell.

The sale in school of poppies for Earl Haig's Fund realised the sum of £5 10s. 8d.

A full inspection of the school was held by the Ministry of Education for four days, commencing Tuesday, October 4th. Six Inspectors conducted this inspection, while a number of others attended at different times.

Half-term holiday was from Friday, October 28th, to Tuesday, November 1st.

Talks, illustrated by photographs, have been given on two Friday afternoons on the visit to Paris by some senior members of the party.

The term closes on Tuesday, December 20th.

A STICKY FINISH

About five months ago we had a little kitten. He was very lively. There were a lot of flies about, so my mother fixed a fly paper to the lamp shade.

The next morning she left the kitten playing in the living room when she went outside. Two or three minutes afterwards the kitten came outside, sticky all over and very miserable. He had seen a fly get caught on the fly paper, and had jumped up at it. The fly paper came down, and he got tangled up in it. My mother plastered grease on him to get the sticky stuff off.

He never looked at a fly paper again.

VALERIE BASELEY (IIIA).

CONSCIENCE-STRICKEN

I heard the rain beating against the window pane and the wind rushing through the falling leaves, and felt really relieved that I had an evening at home which I could spend, by the fireside. I then thought of all the things I ought to do and felt a little less at peace with the world. I finally decided that I would attempt to finish some knitting that had been on the needles far too long, and also, what was more urgent, play round a subject for a magazine article, which I knew should be produced before the following Friday.

I waited for inspiration, which did not seem to come, but I continued to knit placidly, and watched the flames flickering and frolicking, leaping and darting up the chimney. I wondered if I might rise to a poem about Firelight, but I remembered how easy a poem was to start and how difficult to finish.

The well-known strains of "Up the Pole" intruded on my thoughts, and I was unable to resist listening to the cheerful back-chat of pathetic little Jimmy and wheedling Ben Warris, and the lovable, but slow-witted, Mr. Hotplate.

How quickly that half hour did go. My father rose purposefully and changed programmes. I wondered what was of interest on the Home Service. My hopes were dashed. He had turned it on to the Third Programme. It happened to be quite pleasant music, however, so I gathered my scattered thoughts and focussed them once more on the magazine article. Soon "Victorian Nocturne" penetrated my thoughts. Why do announcers always have such persistent, incisive voices? I wondered. The title, on reflection, I thought, sounded interesting and I found myself listening with interest at first; then I found it most absorbing and finally I was enthralled by it. The programme gave such a clear and vivid description of London after dark, but I found it difficult to believe that such conditions existed in England less than a hundred years ago.

After the news there was the American Letter, which gave a short, entertaining glimpse into American life. I think I realised for the first time what a wonderful thing the wireless is.

Following that there was the lively discussion "We Beg to Differ." How exhilarating I found this sparkling banter between the sexes! And how entertaining this wit, repartee, and good-humoured raillery was!

Suddenly, I realised it was ten o'clock. How quickly the time had slipped away. The article was still unwritten, but somehow I had no regrets.

JENNIFER BIRCH (VI).

A CAPTURE

When my brother was four (I was about eight), I took him for a walk by the river. It was very lonely and there was no one in sight. My brother would not do as I told him, and kept going to the edge of the bank.

He was looking over the edge of the bank when he called me to tell me that he had just seen a water-rat. Of course this did not interest me and so I took no notice. I did not bother to look to see what he was doing until I heard a splash. I ran to the edge of the bank, just in time to see him come up. When I had dragged him out I asked him what he was looking so pleased about.

At this he produced from behind his back a dirty, wriggling water-rat, which he was holding by the tail.

GILLIAN MORRIS (Low. IV.B).

GUY FAWKES NIGHT

On Guy Fawkes night young Bob Green and Jim Black were down the High Street fixing up a five-shilling rocket. They were just going to light it when Bob found that he had forgotten the matches. So he went home and got a box and came back to light it.

Just as they were lighting it, however, the bottle in which it stood was accidentally knocked over, but nothing could be done, as it was already fizzing; then, woo-o-o-o-sh—it had gone.

The chums saw it go down the street, underneath a lorry, and through the open door of the butcher's shop. Fortunately, however, it went through the open window at the other end and down the street, whizzing past a bicycle and through a man's legs.

Down at the cross-roads was a policeman, and the rocket flashed past him and exploded right under his nose. Bob and Jim then ran for their lives with the P.C. after them on his bicycle. The two boys then doubled back and hid in a doorway, with a banger ready, and as the P.C. rode past them they threw it and it exploded in the wheel. Spokes flew everywhere, and the P.C. landed on his nose.

"Come on," said Bob, "run for it!" and our P.C. was left in a trail of dust.

A. D. HALL (Low. V.B).

THE EXPRESS TRAIN

It rushes along with a lightning speed,
And hoots past stations which pay no heed.
Its furnace glows all red and strong
To turn water to steam which drives it along.
It roars along through village and town,
And hisses and howls over hill and down.
It whistles and hoots by rivers and lakes,
Till it suddenly stops with a screech of brakes.

J. AULTON (IIIB).

OXFORD EXAMINATIONS, 1949

In the examinations held last July the following candidates were successful :—

Higher School Certificate.

GROUP 2 (*Modern Studies*) :—J. Holifield, D. A. Rose.

GROUP 3 (*Science and Mathematics*) :—G. V. Adkins, J. B. Dance (distinction in Chemistry), *C. J. E. Kempster (distinction in Pure Mathematics and Physics), J. Prestidge.

* Awarded State Scholarship.

School Certificate.

A. D. Amos (3 credits) ; J. M. Archer (2 credits) ; J. H. Arnold (4 credits) ; D. L. Bailey (5 credits) ; *J. A. Birch (6 credits) ; G. E. Blundell (5 credits) ; R. J. Blundell (8 credits) ; K. A. Brookes (2 credits) ; D. F. N. Browne (4 credits) ; *B. A. Bryan (6 credits) ; A. E. Bryan (6 credits) ; †M. Burrows (8 credits) ; *J. H. Codling (6 credits) ; J. Davies (7 credits) ; J. G. Finnemore (1 credit) ; L. E. Haines (3 credits) ; M. Harris (5 credits) ; *F. M. Highman (7 credits) ; A. M. Hill (4 credits) ; Janet Holder (1 credit) ; M. G. Malpass (1 credit) ; D. Mortimore (4 credits) ; R. L. Savage (6 credits) ; D. R. W. Savage (2 credits) ; C. D. Smalley (5 credits) ; R. H. Stanley (6 credits) ; J. R. Stringer (2 credits) ; G. C. Tarver (5 credits) ; R. F. Varney (5 credits) ; J. A. Wainwright (4 credits) ; R. C. Warburton (6 credits) ; M. I. Williams (4 credits) ; E. N. Wilkinson (3 credits) ; C. M. Wyatt (7 credits).

* Qualified to claim exemption from London University Matriculation examination.

† First in examination: awarded the "Spencer" Cup.

NATIONAL SAVINGS

This group begs to plead that it still exists.

From October 1st, 1948, to March 31st, 1949, the weekly savings averaged £1 1s. 5d. During the summer months, thanks to those who were saving for the school trip to Paris, the weekly total averaged £7 1s. 9d.

This term there have been only 20 members of the school using the group, and the weekly average has returned to normal: £1 6s. 2d. at the time of going to press.

Don't forget that we are always pleased to supply you with Savings Stamps and Certificates in the Art Room, every Friday, during and after second dinner.

MISS YOUNG

(Hon. Sec.).

MUSIC SOCIETY

At the end of last term we said good-bye to many of our senior members, but our numbers have been increased this term by a large addition of juniors. Altogether there have been about fifty-four girls attending Music Society during general activities.

Many thanks are due to Miss Griffith for the help she has given us on Friday afternoons.

This term we have been practising hard for a Carol Service, which we hope to hold, together with other local schools, in St. Nicholas Church at Christmas.

Every Monday dinner-hour at 1.25, a hymn practice, to which everyone was invited, has been held, when the hymns for the week were selected and practised.

All members of Music Society were fortunate enough this term to be issued with new hymn books, complete with tunes.

A small fund has been started this term, to which members made small voluntary contributions for the purchase of new music and records for the Society. In this way we hope that our members may be able to hear good music and learn to appreciate it.

FRANCES HIGHMAN

(Hon. Sec.).

DRAMATIC SOCIETY

This Christmas the school is presenting "The Busman's Honeymoon," by Dorothy L. Sayers and M. St. Clare Byrne, on December 15th and 16th, at the Entaco Canteen, Studley, by kind permission of the directors of the British Needle Industries, Ltd.

The main characters have been cast as follows:—*Lord Peter Wimsey*: Drew (Low. V.A); *Harriet (his wife)*: J. Davies (VI); *Bunter (his manservant)*: Pritchard (Upp. V.B); *Supt. Kirk*: Bamford (VI); *P.C. Sellon*: Vale (Upp. V.B); *Mr. Puffet*: Sargeant (Upp. V.B); *Frank Crutchley*: Pearce (Upp. V.B); *Rev. S. Goodacre*: Sallis (Upp. V.A); *Miss Twitterton*: D. Mortimore (Upp. V.B); *Mrs. Ruddie*: M. Williams (VI); *MacBride*: Perryman (VI). The prompter is B. Druller (Upp. V.A).

Miss Young is again producing the play, and Mr. Thornton is once more in charge of the "Box Office." Miss Jolley is to control the properties, and Mr. Hadwen has undertaken the very difficult stage management. The girls of the Dramatic Society, who are not in the play, have been helping with the properties, while the boys are busy making "the set."

As we have not had any regular meetings this term, new officers have not yet been elected. This election will take place in January, when we settle down to normal routine.

ANN PERKINS

(Hon. Sec.).

RADIO SOCIETY

The television set has been successfully completed, and the tuning signals have been received. It is hoped that when the Sutton Coldfield transmitter commences operations we shall receive the programme satisfactorily. A short-wave set is under construction by some members, while the juniors, having successfully finished their crystal set, are building a one-valve receiver.

The members regret that their president, Prestidge, has left school, although he has been present at some meetings since.

A cordial welcome is extended to all enthusiasts.

P. M. GOWERS

(Hon. Sec.).

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

At the end of last term we regretfully said good-bye to Evans, our chairman since the inauguration of the society. It was he who worked so keenly to found and carry on the Society. Drew was elected chairman, Davies became treasurer, and Miller and Hitchings were elected to the committee.

Mr. Moizer has very kindly "adopted" our enlarger, and is allowing our members to work on it and other dark-room gadgets, in their wood-work lessons. The condenser lens we bought recently has rather depleted our funds. We are now looking out for a fairly cheap enlarging lens.

Since the blackout arrangements for our part-time dark-room are rather imperfect at present, we have confined our practical work to a little printing by each of our members in turn.

Several lantern lectures of varying degrees of interest have been given by Kempster during the term. Some amusement was afforded by the first attempts of two members at inserting the slides. Drew, who usually operates the projector, has temporarily deserted us to rehearse for the school play. Three lectures on printing and developing were rather technical, and illustrated by enlargements.

C. J. E. KEMPSTER.

THE STAMP CLUB

Secretary :—BOLT i.

Several of the older members of the Club have left to engage in other activities, but the admission of some junior boys has served to keep the numbers up to last year's total, and the level of keenness has been thoroughly maintained.

Part of each meeting has been devoted to exchange, though some members are rather short of duplicates. The stamps of a different country each week have been displayed, and those who have brought stamps for these displays have provided much interest for their fellow members. New and recent issues of particular interest have been brought to the meetings, examined and discussed.

Competitions of various kinds have been organised to test the knowledge, observation and originality of members, and in these a fair degree of enthusiasm has been shown.

The work done by Bolt as secretary merits a special word of praise.

SCOUTS

This term we have seventeen new scouts, so that in spite of the fact that some have, of necessity, left us, our numbers do not show a loss. Three new patrol leaders have been appointed; Burden i has taken over the Owls, Grey has taken over the Peewits, and Lane i has become patrol leader of the Beavers.

Our activities have included a tree identification competition, morse and pioneering, and for the first time we have been tracking, using only natural signs. Inter-patrol competition has continued at the same high level as last term. Before the end of term we hope to do some fire-lighting and cooking, thereby increasing greatly the number of second-class scouts.

The Panthers have kept their lead, and have now 81 points; the Eagles are second with 77 points; the Peewits and Owls tie with 74 points; the Falcons have 69; the Kingfishers 64 and the Beavers 57.

A. G. BLUNDELL

(Troop Leader).

FOOTBALL

Captain: Holifield.

Vice-Captain: McCarthy

Secretary: Hadwen.

Up to the time of writing the school football XI. has not this season registered any victories. This failure we may attribute to the fact that there are indeed very few boys in the school from whom to select an eleven, in comparison with many of our opponents. This year, in particular, our eleven is both inexperienced and small in stature in contrast to the bigger and more experienced teams that we play.

In the matches so far played, the defence has acquitted itself with credit, and in the match against the Stratford Farmers—by far our best game this term—we were unlucky to lose. Eventually, receiving but little help from the forward's, who always seem very shy in front of goal, the defence has been overwhelmed. There are still several matches to be played before the end of the season, including a new fixture with St. Philip's Grammar School, Edgbaston, and we hope to balance this deficiency and to offer stouter opposition.

The match with the Old Scholars will take place early next term.

RESULTS

A.G.S.	v.	Redditch C.H.S.	(home)	lost, 2—8.
..	v.	Stratford N.F.I.S.S.C.	(home)	lost, 0—2.
..	v.	Bromsgrove C.H.S.	(away)	lost, 0—7.
..	v.	Chipping Campden G.S.	(away)	lost, 1—8.

A.G.S. under 15 v. Bromsgrove C.H.S. under 15 (away) lost, 2—5.

Sides Matches: Tomtits 3, Brownies 1.

Sides Matches (under 15): Tomtits 2, Brownies 2.

J.H.

HOCKEY (Girls)

Captain : Janet Holder. *Vice-Captain* : Rosamund Varney.

Secretary : Ann Perkins.

Since most of last year's teams have left, the school has been represented by practically a new set of girls. Despite this, we have been quite successful, but with further practice, hope to get even better results.

Unfortunately, the first matches of the season were against one of our strongest opponents, Redditch C.H.S. The fact that we were beaten heavily was partly due to the unsettled state of our teams, and we hope to retaliate the next time we meet them. One of the most exciting matches was played against Bromsgrove C.H.S., when, after leading for some time, the school 1st XI. were nearly forced to a draw in the closing minutes of the game. There is much enthusiasm among the junior girls, and there are already many promising players.

This term the school has been represented by :—

1st XI. B. Druller, S. Spencer, J. Holder, J. Hammond, P. Aspinwall, M. Williams, R. Varney, W. Lovell, A. Perkins, B. Bryan, D. Palmer.
2nd XI. J. Finnemore, B. Phillips, M. Cund, P. Tipping, B. Clark, G. Winspear, S. Thompson, J. Hopkins, A. Wilson, S. Tipping, F. Highman, M. Woodfield.

RESULTS

A.G.S. 1st XI.	v. Redditch C.H.S.	(home)	lost, 0—7.
	v. Hugh Clopton School	(away)	won, 8—2.
	v. Worcester C.H.S.	(home)	lost, 2—3.
	v. Bromsgrove C.H.S.	(away)	won, 4—3.
	v. Evesham P.H.G.S.	(away)	lost, 5—8.
	v. Chipping Campden G.S.	(away)	won, 5—1.
A.G.S. 2nd XI.	v. Stratford Youth Club	(away)	won, 3—2.
	v. Redditch C.H.S. 2nd XI	(home)	lost, 0—7.
	v. Hugh Clopton 2nd XI	(away)	won, 3—0.
	v. Worcester G.S. 2nd XI	(home)	lost, 2—3.
	v. Bromsgrove C.H.S. 2nd XI	(away)	lost, 1—5.
	v. Evesham P.H.G.S. 2nd XI	(away)	lost, 0—6.
	v. Evesham P.H.G.S. 2nd XI	(home)	lost, 1—4.

J.H.

NETBALL

Captain : Janet Davies. *Vice-Captain* : Cecily Hartwell.

This term we have been practising keenly, and have found a great deal of enthusiasm, which is very encouraging. Our first match, against Evesham, was played with much vigour, and both teams lost by a margin of only one goal. We look forward to matches at home and away with Chipping Campden and Studley College before Christmas.

The teams this term have been :—

1st VII. J. Holder, G. Malpass, J. Hammond, D. Browne, J. Davies, F. Highman, S. Spencer.

2nd VII. D. Gravestock, C. Hartwell, P. Gibson, D. Palmer, G. Smith, G. Winspear, J. Codling.

RESULTS

A.G.S. 1st VII	v. Evesham P.H.G.S. 1st VII	(away)	lost, 16—17.
„ “A” VII	v. Chipping Campden G.S. “A” VII	(away)	lost, 10—22.
„ 2nd VII	v. Evesham P.H.G.S. 2nd VII	(away)	lost, 12—13.

J.D.

SUPPLEMENTARY RESULTS

CRICKET

A.G.S. 1st XI	v.	Evesham P.H.G.S. 1st XI	(home) lost, 63—152 for 8 (decl.).
	v.	Astwood Bank C.C. 3rd XI	(home) won, 76 for 9 (decl.)—26.
	v.	Old Scholars XI	(home) drawn, 71 for 8—96 for 7 (decl.).
School	v.	Scouts XI	won, 71 for 3 (decl.)—46.

Sides Match : Brownies 100 ; Jackals 71.

Junior Sides Matches : Jackals 36, Tomtits 33 ; Tomtits 74, Brownies 30 ;
Jackals 49, Brownies 35.

Summary :

Played	Won	Lost	Drawn
9	3	4	2

TENNIS

A.G.S. 1st VI	v.	Bromsgrove C.H.S. 1st VI	(away) lost, 3 sets—6 sets.
	v.	Old Scholars VI	(home) lost, 2 sets—7 sets.

In these matches Ann Wilson played in the 1st VI.

A.G.S. Vith Form v. Staff, lost, 2 events—23 events.

Summary.

Played	Won	Lost
9	4	5

ROUNDERS

A.G.S. 1st IX v. Bromsgrove C.H.S. 1st IX (away) drawn, 3—3.

In addition to those mentioned last term the following played in the 1st IX :—
P. Aspinwall, B. Bryan, B. Druller.

Sides Matches : Tomtits $4\frac{1}{2}$, Brownies 3 ; Jackals $3\frac{1}{2}$, Tomtits 0 ;
Jackals $5\frac{1}{2}$, Brownies 2.

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